THE WAY INTO THE CHURCH AND STEPS IN THE CHURCH

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The Way Into the Church and Growth in the Church

Only One Way to Be Saved.

Job saw a path—not "paths" (Job. 28:7).
There is a Highway—not "highways" (Isaiah 35:8).
Jeremiah speaks of one way—and not "ways" (Jer. 32:39).
In the New Testament we find that there is only one way to be saved.

The prophets above spoke of the one way and saw it long before Jesus came, and we find that after Jesus died on the cross there is one way.

1. We find one church spoken of in (Matt. 16:18).
2. We find one Gospel spoken of in (Mark 16:15-16).
3. We find one door into the sheepfold (John 10:1).
4. We find one fold spoken of in (John 10:16).
5. We find one shepherd spoken of in (John 10:16).
6. Jesus is the Way—and not ways (John 14:6).
7. Jesus prayed for the apostles to be ONE. (John 17:11).
8. It is The Kingdom of God—and not kingdoms of God (Matt. 6:33).
9. There is one gate spoken of and—not gates (Matt. 7:13).
10. There is a narrow way and—not ways (Matt. 7:14).
11. The kingdom of heaven is spoken of—"not kingdoms" (Matt. 13:11). 31, 33, 44, 45, 47).
12. The Lord added to the Church daily—not churches (Acts 2:47).

Faith is the First Step the sinner takes toward the Kingdom of God (The Church).

There are Seven Kinds of Faith.

1. We are told that there is a dead faith (James 2:17).
2. There is also a living faith as we find in (James 2:17, 20).
3. There is a perfect faith spoken of in (James 2:22).
4. There is a unity faith spoken of in (Eph. 4:13).
5. There is a faith that shields (Eph. 6:16).
6. There is a faith of humility (Rom. 3:27).
7. There is also a fruitful faith found in (Rom. 5:1-5).

There are Seven Things we do by Faith.

1. We become children of God by faith (Gal. 3:26).
2. We are told that we live by faith (Rom. 1:17).
3. We are told that we stand by faith (2 Cor. 1:24).
4. We are told that we walk by faith (2 Cor. 5:7).
5. We are to pray by faith, all the time (James 1:6).
6. We are to overcome the world by faith (1 John 5:4).
7. We wait for our reward by faith (Gal. 5:5).

We are now going to notice faith in general.

1. Every man is justified by faith (Rom. 5:1).

2. But no man is saved by faith only (James 2:20, 22, 24, 26).
3. We obtain a good report by faith (Heb. 11:2).
4. Cannot come to God except by faith (Heb. 11:6).
5. We have to believe in Jesus Christ (John 14:1).
6. Our hearts are purified by faith (Acts 15:9).
7. We are sanctified by faith in Christ (Acts 26:18).
8. The Spirit comes through faith (Gal. 3:14).
9. There is such a thing as little faith (Matt. 8:26).
10. There is a great faith spoken of (Matt. 8:10).
11. Faith as a grain of mustard seed (Matt. 17:20).
12. Lord asked to increase our faith (Luke 17:5).
13. We can be full of faith (Acts 6:5).
14. We are exhorted to continue in the faith (Acts 14:22).
15. Church must be established in the faith (Acts 16:5).
16. Faith comes by hearing (Rom. 10:17).
17. Faith is called obedience (Rom. 16:26).
18. Faith without love is nothing (1 Cor. 13:2).
19. There was a time when there was no faith, such as we have now (Gal. 3:23, 24).
20. Faith worketh by love (Gal. 5:6).
21. There is only one faith that saves (Eph. 4:5).
22. There is a breast-plate of faith (1 Thess. 5:8).
23. Faith has power in it (2 Thess. 1:11).
24. All men do not have faith (2 Thess. 3:2).
25. The faith has to be kept (2 Tim. 4:7).
26. We must earnestly contend for the faith (Jude 3).

Repentance is the Second Step the sinner takes toward the Kingdom of God (The Church).

1. We are told in (Luke 13:3) that we must repent.
2. All men are commanded to repent (Acts 17:30).
3. Repentance is turning around (Acts 3:19).
4. Sinners commanded to repent (Acts 2:38).
5. Sinners have to repent so they can turn to God (Acts 26:20).
6. Churches have to repent (Rev. 2:16).
7. Repentance was in the great commission (Luke 24:47).
8. The goodness of God leads to repentance (Rom. 2:4).
9. Godly sorrow worketh repentance (2 Cor. 7:10).
10. People get where they cannot repent (Heb. 6:1-6; Heb. 12:17).
11. God is not willing that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9).
12. John the Baptist preached repentance (Matt. 3:11).
13. John preached the baptism of repentance (Mark 1:4).
14. Angels rejoice when sinners repent (Luke 15:7).

Seven Kinds of Repentance.

1. God repented over His own works (Gen. 6:6; 1 Sam. 15:11).
2. God's withholding promised good is called repentance (Jer. 18:10).

3. God's withholding threatened evil is called repentance (Jonah 3:10).
4. God's sympathy is called repentance (Judges 2:18).
5. Man's repentance for others (Judges 21:6).
6. Crying Repentance is spoken of in (Matt. 27:3).
7. Reformatory Repentance means to turn around (Luke 13:3).

The Third Step the sinner takes toward the Kingdom of God (The Church) is Confession.

1. The Devil confessed that there is a God (Gen. 3:1).
2. A legion of devils confessed that Jesus is the Christ (Matt. 8:28-32; Mark 1:23-26; Luke 8:28-33).
3. People confessed their sins while they were being baptized. (Matt. 3:6).
4. Peter confessed that Jesus was the Christ (Matt. 16:16).
5. Sinners have to confess that Jesus is the Christ (Matt. 10:32, 33).
6. We are commanded to confess and how to do it (Rom. 10:10).
7. The Eunuch had to confess before he was baptized by Philip (Acts 8:37).
8. Every tongue will finally confess Jesus Christ (Rom. 14:11).
9. We must confess our faults to each other (James 5:16).
10. We confess to God and not to men for foregiveness of our sins (1John 1:9). 1:9).
11. Why some believers did not confess Christ (John 12:42, 43).
12. Jesus will confess us in heaven if we confess Him and overcome the world (Rev. 3:5).
13. It is necessary that every one confess Jesus Christ, for He is the Savior of the world. Confession lets all the world know where we stand.
14. The life must stand back of the confession made by the mouth. No one can ever see God in peace who has not made the confession.

The Fourth Step to be taken by the sinner to reach the Kingdom of God (The Church) is baptism.

1. John baptized in Jordan while the people confessed their sins (Matt. 3:5, 6).
2. We are to be baptized in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19, 20).
3. Jesus walked between sixty and eighty miles to be baptized of John (Mark 1:9-11).
4. The man who believes is the one that is fit for baptism (Mark 16:15, 16).
5. Peter said that baptism is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).
6. Much water is required to baptize in, as it is dipping and not sprinkling (John 3:23).
7. Baptism is called a burial in more than one place (Rom. 6:4).
8. There is only one baptism, we are told by the apostle (Eph. 4:5).
9. We again find it to be a burial (Col. 2:12).
10. We must be born of the water and of the Spirit (John 3:5).
11. To reject baptism rejects the counsel of God (Luke 7:30).

12. Both sexes are to be baptized (Acts 8:12).
13. John's disciples had to rebaptized after Christ's kingdom was come (Acts 19:1-5).
14. We are to be planted, which shows it is a burial in water (Rom. 6:5).
15. Impossible to get into Christ except we are baptized into Him (Gal. 3:27).
16. Baptism is called a washing, as we find in (Heb. 10:22).
17. Baptism is necessary in order to be saved (1 Peter 3:21).
18. The Israelites were hidden in the cloud and in the sea from Moses only, showing that immersion is the only way to be baptized (1 Cor. 10:2). They were our examples (1 Cor. 10:6, 11).
19. Sprinkling is only mentioned seven times in the New Testament (Heb. 9:13, 19, 21; Heb. 10:22; Heb. 11:28; Heb. 12:24; 1 Peter 1:2).
20. The devils are afraid of water (Luke 8:31).
21. We are married to Christ, and the marriage ceremony is in baptism, "Into Father, Son and Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28:19; Rom. 7:4).

THE NAME WE ARE TO WEAR

After the Four Steps have been taken which puts one into the Kingdom of God, he becomes a Christian and is married to Jesus Christ.

1. God never gave a name that did not have a significance in it. Abraham means high Father of many people.
2. Adam was a figure of Christ and Eve was a figure of the Church. (Rom. 5:14).
3. We have the new name prophesied of in (Isaiah 62:1, 2). This was seven hundred years before Christ.
4. The Israelites were to leave their old name and were to be given another name to wear (Isaiah 65:15).
5. The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch (Acts 11:26).
6. There is salvation in no other name under heaven (Acts 4:12).
7. A heathen king knew by Paul's language that Christian was the right name to be worn by the followers of Christ (Acts 26:28).
8. If a man suffer as a Christian he should rejoice and not be ashamed. (1 Peter 4:16).
9. People would blaspheme the name Christian, for it is worthy (James 2:7).
10. People follow those who would come in their own names (John 5:43).
11. People use their denominational names as gods (Micah 4:5).
12. No angel ever had a name equal to Jesus (Heb. 1:4).
13. Every knee will finally bow to the name of Jesus (Phil. 2:9, 10).
14. Jesus' name is above every name in this world (Eph. 1:21).
15. It was said that the Gentiles should trust in His name (Matt. 12:21).
16. We are justified in His name (1 Cor. 6:11).
17. We should do everything in His Name (Col. 3:17).
18. We are reproached for His name (1 Peter 4:14).
19. Smyrna, a church, loved His name and held it fast (Rev. 2:13).
20. If we are married to Christ, we should wear His name, and we do

know that we are married to Him (Rom. 7:4; 2 Cor. 11:2).

21. Jesus called Himself the bridegroom (Mark 2:19, 20).
22. Jesus called the bridegroom by John (John 3:29).
23. Paul represents the relationship between the church and Christ the same as between the wife and the husband (Eph. 5:23-33).
24. John saw the church with her bridal robe on, and it was a glorious church (Rev. 21:1, 2).
25. The bride of Christ, the church, invites sinners to come (Rev. 22:17).

STEPS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD, THE CHURCH

The First Step in the Kingdom of God is in Doctrine. (Acts 2:42).

1. There is only one doctrine of Jesus Christ and only one doctrine of the apostles (Matt. 7:28; Acts 13:12).
2. There is a vain doctrine taught when the doctrines of men are taught (Matt. 15:9).
3. Jesus has one doctrine and God has one doctrine (John 7:16).
4. There is no other doctrine to be taught, only the one taught by the apostles (Gal. 1:8, 9).
5. Christians should be steadfast and not be carried about by every wind of doctrine (Eph. 4:14).
6. The doctrine preached by the apostles was a new doctrine (Acts 17:19).
7. Paul said that the Romans had obeyed that form of "doctrine." It is always doctrine and not doctrines, when speaking of the Word of the Lord (Rom. 6:17).
8. Turn away from all who do not teach the doctrine of the apostles of Jesus (Rom. 16:17).
9. The doctrines of men are not good and the Corinthian brethren were told that it was not good to do so (1 Cor. 14:26).
10. Don't go wild after the doctrines of men, for they only lead to destruction (Col. 2:20-22).
11. The doctrine of God must not be blasphemed (1 Tim. 6:1).
12. A man must consent to the doctrine, for it belongs to our Lord (1 Tim. 6:3).
13. The Scripture is given by the inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine (2 Tim. 3:16).
14. Timothy was to preach doctrine, yet many people do not want doctrine preached now (2 Tim. 4:2).
15. We are told that the time would come when they would not endure sound doctrine. (2 Tim. 4:3).
16. We are told that in the later times some would listen to the doctrines of devils (1 Tim. 4:1).
17. To have Jesus and the Father, we must abide in the doctrine (2 John 9).
18. We must only bid those God speed who come with the doctrine of Jesus Christ. How then can we sanction anything that is unsound in doctrine? (2 John 10).

The Second Step in the Kingdom of God is Fellowship.

1. The first Christians did continue in fellowship (Acts 2:42).
2. Fellowship means money, and therefore "they put their money together and had all things common." (Acts 2:44, 45).
3. The early Christians gave everything they had to the advancement of the Lord's kingdom (Acts 2:44, 45; Acts 4:34-37).
4. If we give we will attain unto perfection to a great degree (Matt. 19:21).
5. The widow's mite was greater than all that the rich gave (Mark 12:43, 44).
6. If you give good measure, it will come back in good measure (Luke 6:38).
7. When a man or woman is truly converted he wants to give of his means (Luke 19:8).
8. The church should take care of the poor and not let them suffer (Acts 6:1-7).
9. We should give to those who are less fortunate in life than we are. (Acts 20:35).
10. Members of the church have to give that the Gospel may be preached to others; in this way the member of the church can preach the same as the minister (Rom. 10:13-15).
11. We are told to give with simplicity, or liberality. (Rom. 12:8).
12. The church should have a band of men to look after those who are poor. (Rom. 12:13).
13. The church in Macedonia made a contribution to the church at Jerusalem or saints there. (Rom. 15:25-26).
14. The man who ministers in spiritual matters must have a support in material things. (Rom. 15:27).
15. We have to give to maintain the ministry, for it is God's way to have the Gospel preached to the world. (1 Cor. 9:14).
16. Christians are to lay by in store on the First Day of the week, not one-tenth, but as the Lord has prospered them. God knew how to tell us to give and He said as we had been prospered. (1 Cor. 16:2).
17. We must give more than a tenth if we have been prospered, for Jesus is greater than Moses. Give until your gift is called liberality (1 Cor. 16:3).
18. The Christians in the Corinthian Church "addicted themselves to giving," which means that they devoted themselves to give, consecrated, until it became a habit with them. They loved to give. (1 Cor. 16:15).
19. The poorer the churches in Macedonia got, the more they gave. Their poverty led them to be generous (2 Cor. 8:1, 2). They gave more than they were really able to give (2 Cor. 8:3).
20. When any church feels the need of the Gospel itself, it wants to send the Gospel to others also. (2 Cor. 8:4, 5).
21. The Corinthian church was told to abound in this grace also. Giving is called a grace and it is a wonderful grace. (2 Cor. 8:6, 7).
22. Paul wanted everyone to be on equal footing and not some burdened and others be left at ease. (2 Cor. 8:13-15).

23. Paul was a little afraid that the Corinthian church would not give like he had thought it would, so he sent brethren to make up the money. (2 Cor. 9:1-5).

24. If you don't give much you will not receive much, Paul said. (2 Cor. 9:6).

25. Don't give grudgingly but willingly, for God loves the cheerful giver. (2 Cor. 9:7).

26. (2 Cor. 11:8, 9; Eph. 4:28; Phil. 4:10; Phil. 4:15, 16; Phil. 4:17; 1 Thess. 5:14; 1 Tim. 6:17, 18; Heb. 6:10; Heb. 13:16; 1 John 3:17).

The Third Step in the Kingdom of God is Commemorating the Lord's Death and Sufferings.

1. The early Christian broke bread in memory of Christ. (Acts 2:42).
2. Commemorating the sufferings of Christ was seen in the long ago. (Lev. 24:5-9; Heb. 10:1).
3. We eat in memory of Christ's body and should see His sufferings. (Matt. 26:26; Mark 14:22; Luke 22:19).
4. We are to drink the fruit of the vine in memory of Christ's shed blood. (Matt. 26:26, 27, 28; Mark 14:23, 24; Luke 22:20).
5. The blood of Jesus was shed for the remission of sins. (Matt. 26:28).
6. The blood of Jesus had to be shed or there could not have been remission of sins. (Heb. 9:22).
7. We should assemble to break bread and not hear preaching if we are Christians. (Acts 20:7).
8. A sinner comes to hear preaching first as we learn in (Mark 16:15, 16).
9. It is a cup of blessing and communion of the blood of Christ (1 Cor. 10:16).
10. We become one body by partaking of the one bread. (1 Cor. 10:17).
11. Paul tells the Corinthian church that they should not eat to satisfy bodily hunger when they came together to remember the Lord. (1 Cor. 11:20, 21).
12. We are told how we should eat this bread and drink this cup of the Lord. We are to remember Jesus and understand His body and the purpose for which we gather (1 Cor. 11:23-34). The unworthy are not those who have sinned, but the man who, whether he has sinned or not, thinks of everything else except the body of Jesus while he eats and drinks of the bread and fruit of the vine. Taking of these emblems gives us strength to battle on another week.
13. To have life in us we must partake of these emblems. (John 6:53, 54).
14. Christians should not forsake the assembling of themselves together. (Heb. 10:25). It is a direct command in the New Testament.

The Fourth Step in the Kingdom of God is Prayer.

1. The early Christians continued in prayer. (Acts 2:42).
2. Let us see when the first prayer was prayed as recorded in the Bible. (Gen. 4:26; 5:3-6).
3. Let us notice now when the next prayer was prayed by human lips. (Gen. 12:8).

4. We are commanded to pray for others in the New Testament, and we find under the Old Testament that others were prayed for. (Gen. 20:7-17).
5. Rebekah was the first wife selected by prayer. (Gen. 24:12-67).
6. Children were prayed for by Isaac, as we find in (Gen. 25:21-26).
7. Jacob was the first to overcome an enemy by prayer (Gen. 32:9-12; 33:4).
8. Jacob wrestled in prayer with an angel until the blessing came. (Gen. 32:24-30).
9. Moses saved the lives of a whole nation by prayer, and yet we are afraid to pray for our country or nation. (Ex. 32:32).
10. Aaron and his sons prayed "God's Prayer" (Num. 6:22-26).
11. Solomon dedicated a house with prayer. (1 Kings 8:22-54).
12. David had a set time each day to pray, and he prayed at those times set. (Psa. 55:17).
13. Daniel prayed, even though it jeopardized his own life to do so, yet he had the courage to do it. (Dan. 6:10-23).
14. Jesus taught us how to pray and we have the model prayer given in (Matt. 6:9-13).
15. The church is called "The House of Prayer" (Matt. 21:13).
16. There are no limitations to prayer, if our lives are in accord with His life. (John 15:7).
17. The church at Jerusalem was the first to pray one out of prison. (Acts 12:5-19).
18. Paul and Silas prayed themselves out of prison. (Acts 16:25, 26).
19. Paul commanded that we pray without ceasing. (1 Thess. 5:17).
20. Offering incense morning and evening under the law photographed prayer (Rev. 5:8) and shows that we should pray twice each day (Ex. 30:7, 8).
21. We are taught to let our requests be known unto God by prayer. (Phil. 4:6).
22. The things we eat are to be sanctified by prayer, therefore we should always give thanks before we eat. (1 Tim. 4:5).
23. The prayers of a righteous man availeth much (James 5:16).
24. Elias prayed that it might not rain and it rained not, and again he prayed and it rained. (James 5:17, 18).
25. A rebellious sinner not heard when he prays (John 9:31). This means the sinner that will not turn to God and be saved.
26. A penitent sinner is heard while he is on his way to God and pardon (Acts 9:11). There is also an example of a penitent sinner being heard (Acts 10:2).
27. We are authorized to stand and pray to God. (Mark 11:25).

The Fifth Step in the Kingdom of God is Virtue.

1. Virtue is named as one of the important virtues (2 Peter 1:5).
2. Joseph was an Old Testament picture of virtue (Gen. 39:7-12).
3. Ruth was a virtuous woman and all the city knew it (Ruth 3:11).
4. Esther was a virtuous woman also and obtained favor with the king. (Esther 2:17).

5. A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband (Prov. 12:4).
6. A virtuous woman is greater than rubies and her price above them. (Prov. 31:10).
7. Here is a prophecy of the church represented as a "daughter" (Prov. 31:1, 29).
8. The mother of Jesus is called the virgin and not a virgin (Isaiah 7:14).
9. We are taught in the Bible that we should not think evil. (Matt. 5:27, 28).
10. Jesus might divorce us if we commit adultery (Matt. 5:32).
11. In the New Testament the mother of Jesus is called virgin. (Luke 1:26-31).
12. Paul wanted to present the church as chaste virgin to Christ. (2 Cor. 11:2).
13. Christians should think about virtue (Phil. 4:8).
14. (2 Peter 1:3) shows us that virtue is one throne that is set up.
15. The redeemed hosts in heaven will be virgins (Rev. 14:4).
16. The Church is likened to ten virgins (Matt. 25:1-13).
17. Virgins prophesied, which means to teach (Acts 21:9).

The Sixth Step in the Kingdom of God is Knowledge.

1. We are taught that knowledge is one of the Christian Graces (2 Peter 1:5).
2. There was a duty of the parent under the law and there is a duty now. (Deut. 11:18-21).
3. Solomon was a picture of knowledge, as we find in (2 Chron. 1:6-12).
4. We can get knowledge from nature in many ways (Psalms 19:1-3).
5. There is all the room we need for growth in knowledge (Psalms 139:1-6).
6. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge (Prov. 1:7).
7. We are to get knowledge from the law of God. (Isaiah 8:20).
8. We had to have pastors to impart to us knowledge from the Word. (Jer. 3:15).
9. Daniel had great knowledge and is an example of it. (Dan. 5:12).
10. It is a dangerous thing to reject knowledge. (Hosea 4:6).
11. The knowledge of God's glory shall cover the earth. (Hab. 2:14).
12. Sometimes lawyers take away the key of knowledge (Luke 11:52).
13. We are commanded to search the Scriptures (John 5:39).
14. The people at Berea searched the Scriptures daily, but people as a rule do not search the Word of God daily in this age. (Acts 17:11).
15. There are people who have zeal without knowledge. (Rom. 10:2).
16. We are asked to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Tim. 2:4).
17. We are commanded to study to show ourselves approved unto God. (2 Tim. 2:15).
18. A study of the word of God makes us wise unto salvation. (2 Tim. 3:13).
19. If we are ever able to give a reason of the hope that is in us we must study the Bible. (1 Peter 3:15).
20. The lips of knowledge are as precious rubies. (Prov. 20:15).

21. God sometimes makes knowledge foolishness. (Isaiah 44:25).
22. People are destroyed for lack of knowledge. (Hosea 4:6).
23. Love must abound in knowledge, even in the Christian. (Phil. 1:9).

The Seventh Step in the Kingdom of God is Temperance.

1. The Christian man or woman must be temperate (2 Peter 1:6).
2. Worldly folks are temperate in all things, but not Christians (2 Cor. 9:25).
3. Christians are to abstain from all appearances of evil (1 Thess. 5:22).
4. Under the law those who ate too much and drank too much were to be killed (Deut. 21:20, 21).
5. Solomon said that you had as well cut your throat as to over-eat, for it is death in the end (Prov. 23:1, 2).
6. Those who are intemperate will surely come to poverty (Prov. 23:21).
7. The kings and rulers of the land should eat in due season. (Eccl. 10:16, 17).
8. Daniel was a picture of temperance and one we would do well to model after (Dan. 1:3-21).
9. People get enough of temperance right quick (Acts 24:25).
10. There is a penalty for defiling the body by intemperance (1 Cor. 3:16, 17).
11. No drunkard can enter the kingdom of heaven, but he can quit drinking. (1 Cor. 6:10).
12. Temperance is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. (Gal. 5:22, 23).
13. Elders and deacons must be temperate (Titus 1:7, 8).
14. Aged men should be temperate (Titus 2:2).

The Eighth Step in the Kingdom of God is Patience.

1. We are commanded to have patience (2 Peter 1:6).
2. It is through patience that we bring forth fruit. (Luke 8:15).
3. In patience Christians posses their souls, and this kind is needed now if ever. (Luke 21:19).
4. Tribulation makes us patient, therefore we need tribulation (Rom. 5:3).
5. With patience we wait for the things we hope for (Rom. 8:25).
6. We must have patience even in tribulation (Rom. 12:12).
7. The right kind of patience produces hope sometimes (Rom. 15:4).
8. We learn that God is a God of patience (Rom. 15:5).
9. We must be patient toward all men (1 Thess. 5:14).
10. Paul expressed his approval at the patience of the Christians at Thessalonica (2 Thess. 1:4).
11. Paul let his patience be fully known and we all should let ours be known (2 Tim. 3:10).
12. If we expect the promise, then we must have patience (Heb. 10:36).
13. We are to run our race from earth to glory with patience (Heb. 12:1).
14. Patience is sometimes brought about by our faith being tried. (Jas. 1:3).
15. Patience makes us perfect as far as we can be made perfect (James 1:4).

16. We have to be patient unto the coming of our Lord (James 5:7).
17. We have examples of patience through the prophets (James 5:10).
18. Job was our greatest example of patience (James 5:11).
19. God shows His patience through the Word of God (Rev. 3:5).
20. God knows the patience of every one in every church (Rev. 2:2).
21. John was a companion in patience (Rev. 1:9).
22. The patience of the saints is spoken of in (Rev. 13:10; 14:12).

The Ninth Step in the Kingdom of God is Godliness.

1. We are required to add godliness to our lives (2 Peter 1:6).
2. Moses was a picture of godliness for us (Num. 12:3).
3. The godly are set apart for God Himself (Psalms 4:3).
4. The prayers of the goldy are answered (Psalms 32:6).
5. We pray for those who have the rule over us that we may live godly. (1 Tim. 2:1, 2).
6. There is a mystery of godliness, which is great. (1 Tim. 3:16).
7. We are to exercise ourselves unto godliness (1 Tim. 4:7).
8. The godly have the promise of two worlds (1 Tim. 4:8).
9. The doctrine of Jesus Christ is according to godliness (1 Tim. 6:3).
10. Godliness with contentment is great gain (1 Tim. 6:6).
11. Some people have a form of godliness but deny the power of it. (2 Tim. 3:5).
12. God's Truth is after godliness (Titus 1:1).
13. We should live godly in this present world (Titus 2:12).
14. God will deliver the godly out of temptation when necessary (2 Peter 2:9).
15. This world is to be destroyed, therefore we should live godly (2 Peter 3:10, 11).
16. We are to serve God with godly fear (Heb. 12:28).
17. Helping the brethren in a godly way is commended (3 John 6).

The Tenth Step in the Kingdom of God is Brotherly Kindness.

1. We are required to add brotherly kindness to our lives (2 Peter 1:7).
2. Abraham was the Old Testament picture of brotherly kindness, as was Jonathan also. (Gen. 13:7, 9; 1 Sam. 20:28-33).
3. God extended kindness to Joseph, according to the revised version. (Gen. 39:21).
4. Joseph wanted kindness by the Butler (Gen. 40:14).
5. Joseph showed kindness to his brothers, even though they sold him. (Gen. 50:15-21).
6. Rahab, the harlot, made the spies swear kindness to her and to her father's house also. (Josh. 2:8-17).
7. God is kind to the living and the dead. (Ruth, 2:20).
8. Ruth possessed much kindness in her life. (Ruth, 3:10).
9. God's loving kindness is better than life. (Psalms 63:3).
10. God's merciful kindness is great toward His people. (Psalms 117:2).
11. The desire of a man is his kindness (Prov. 19:22).

12. God is even kind to the unthankful and the evil. (Luke 6:35).
13. Be kindly affectioned one to another (Rom. 12:10).
14. Charity is kind and we should ever seek to have charity in our lives. (1 Cor. 13:4).
15. God's kindness through Christ is being shown (Eph. 4:32).
16. Kindness is a part of the Christian's robes of righteousness. (Col. 3:12).

The Eleventh Step in the Kingdom of God is LOVE.

1. The eleventh step is Love, and it is the greatest grace (2 Peter 1:7).
2. God gave His Son to die for men This is Divine love. (John 3:16).
3. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. (Rom. 8:35-39).
4. The love of Christ constraineth us (2 Cor. 5:14).
5. Christ's love passeth all understanding (Eph. 3:19).
6. If we love Christ we will keep His words (John 14:23).
7. You have to help your brother to prove God's love (1 John 3:17).
8. We have to love our brother whom we have seen to love God whom we have not seen. (1 John 4:20, 21).
9. We are to love the very Name of Jesus Christ. (Psalms 5:11).
10. The Salvation that has been given to us, we should love (Psalm 40:16).
11. We should love the law of God and of His Son Jesus (Psalms 119:165).
12. We should love wisdom and it will keep us. (Prov. 4:6).
13. We are not only to be merciful but we are to love mercy (Micah 6:8).
14. We are to love our enemies and do good to them that hate us. (Matt. 5:44).
15. We are to love God with all our heart, not just a part of it. (Matt. 22:37).
16. We are commanded to love one another. (John 15:12).
17. We are to love our neighbor as ourselves. (Gal. 5:14).
18. We are commanded to love our wives. (Eph. 5:25).
19. We are commanded to love our Lord Jesus Christ sincerely. (Eph. 6:24).
20. We are not only to love the Lord, but to love His appearing. (2 Tim. 4:8).
21. Wives are to love their husbands and children. (Titus 2:4).
22. We are commanded to love the brotherhood. (1 Peter 2:17).
23. There is an everlasting love to be loved with. (Jer. 31:3).
24. There can be tender love between individuals (Dan. 1:9).
25. There is a comfort in love in the Christian's mind. (Phil. 2:1).
26. We are told in God's word that God is LOVE. (1 John 4:8).
27. We are told that perfect love casteth out fear. (1 John 4:18).
28. The man who fears not is not yet made perfect in love (1 John 4:18).
29. We are not only to love, but we are to multiply love. (Jude 2).
30. We are commanded to speak the truth in love. (Eph. 4:15).

ADVANCED STEPS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Forgiveness.

We have studied the steps into the kingdom of God and then the steps of advancement in the Kingdom, and now we are going to study some things that take us still further on in the service of the Master.

1. We are taught to forgive our debtors as we want to be forgiven. (Matt. 6:12).
2. We are now told that if we do not forgive we cannot be forgiven. (Matt. 6:14, 15).
3. We are told how often we should forgive our brother. (Matt. 18:21, 22).
4. We are here told that if we do not forgive we cannot be forgiven, and we must forgive without being asked to forgive. (Mark 11:25, 26).
5. We find again that the Master said, "Forgive and ye shall be forgiven" (Luke 6:37).
6. We are told to rebuke the one that trespasses against us (Luke 17:3).
7. Jesus forgave them, for they did not know what they were doing. (Luke 23:34).
8. We are to forgive in Christ's name and not in our own. (2 Cor. 2:10).
9. Jesus will forgive if we will confess our sins. (1 John 1:9).
10. Jesus forgave the sins of the woman when they were many. (Luke 7:47).
11. Our thoughts have to be forgiven, if evil. (Acts 8:22).
12. We must forgive in tenderness just as God forgives us. (Eph. 4:32).
13. The worst of sinners can be forgiven if they come to God. (Col. 2:13).
14. When we quarrel we should then go and forgive and not wait until tomorrow. (Col. 3:13).
15. Jesus was sent into this world to forgive sins. (Acts 5:31; 26:18).
16. The person who will not forgive, cannot be forgiven. (Matt. 18:27-32).
17. We are told to love our enemies and do good to them which hate us. (Luke 6:27).
18. The most dangerous thing in all this world is an unforgiving spirit. (Matt. 18:33-35).
19. The person who will not forgive will be damned and without remedy. (Matt. 18:35).
20. We see in this, forgiveness is exemplified by a servant of God. (Acts 7:60).
21. Paul said that at his first answer no man stood with him, yet he asked forgiveness for them. (2 Tim. 4:16).

Second Advanced Step in the Kingdom of God: Unselfishness.

1. We are taught to be unselfish. (Romans 15:1, 2).
2. Jesus did not please himself but pleased others, and took upon Him the sins of all, that He might bear them. (Rom. 15:3).
3. Our mission is to help others, and we cannot deny knowing what they need. (Prov. 24:11, 12).
4. There is a curse upon those who will hold back food from his neighbor. (Prov. 11:26).

5. We are taught to give unto the poor, and if we hide our eyes from those in want we are to have a curse. (Prov. 28:27).
6. Every man becomes a debtor as soon as he comes into the Kingdom of God and begins to owe every person under the sun. (Rom. 1:14).
7. Selfishness is characteristic of the last days, for men shall become lovers of themselves and care nothing for others. (2 Tim. 3:1, 2).

NOTE—No man can have the love of God in his heart and be selfish. Those who are selfish will see many a sorrow. It is impossible to live a selfish life and be a Christian at the same time. Selfishness leads to the Devil. Every man and woman should study self to see if there is any selfishness in his or her heart.

The Third Advanced Step in the Kingdom of God is WORK.

1. We are to be taught by the ant to work and not be idle. (Prov. 6:6).
2. We are taught to gather in the time of harvest and not wait until it is past. (Prov. 10:5).
3. The sluggard is wise in his own eyes. (Prov. 26:16).
4. The sluggard merely turns in his bed as a door upon its hinges. (Prov. 26:14).
5. The idle soul shall suffer hunger, the man falls into a deep sleep. (Prov. 19:15).
6. Drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags. (Prov. 23:21).
7. The slothful man refuses to labor and his slothfulness killeth him. (Prov. 21:25).
8. We are asked to not sleep too much, lest we come to hunger. (Prov. 20:13).
9. The man who will not plow because it is cold, will beg in harvest. (Prov. 20:4).
10. The slothful man says, "There is a lion without." He is afraid of everything to keep out of work. (Prov. 22:13).
11. The building decayeth because of idleness and falls down. (Eccl. 10:18).
12. Sodom had an abundance of idleness and she fell. (Eze. 16:49).
13. Jesus tells us of idlers, for he found them at the market place. (Matt. 20:3).
14. Those who did not work could not eat according to Paul's statement. (2 Thess. 3:10).
15. We again learn of those who were idle and in it forgot Jesus. (1 Tim. 5:13).

NOTE—We are commanded to work and not be idle. We are going to be judged according to our works (Matt. 16:27). We are to work out our own salvation (Phil. 2:12).

The Fourth Advanced Step in the Kingdom of God is Steadfastness.

1. We are shown that Elijah was steadfast and not afraid. (1 Kings 18:13-15).
2. David was not afraid of ten thousand people who had thronged him. (Ps. 3:6).

3. David would not forsake the precepts of the Lord, even though he was almost consumed by his enemies. (Ps. 119:87).
4. David considered the testimonies of the Lord worth all to him. (Ps. 119:157).
5. David loved the testimonies of his Lord and he kept them against everything that befell him. (Ps. 119:167).
6. David was persecuted by his enemies without a cause, but he stood for God and truth all the way through. (Ps. 119:161).
7. Peter and John were steadfast in what they taught. (Acts 4:19, 30).
8. Paul was not moved by any affliction or bonds as anything. (Acts 20:24).
9. Paul was ready to be bound and to suffer death for Christ. (Acts 21:12, 13).
10. Paul was undaunted before the greatest of the men of the age. (Acts 22:30).
11. Paul was ready to defend his Lord at any time when called upon. (Acts 23:1-5).
12. We are not to be afraid of men when it comes to the service of God. (2 Cor. 4:8, 9).
13. We are not to be terrified by our adversaries. (Phil. 1:28).
14. Paul was not ashamed, for he knew in whom he had believed. (2 Tim. 1:12).
15. The word of God is never bound and therefore we should do its bidding. (2 Tim. 2:9).
16. We should suffer for Christ and be happy always. (1 Peter 3:14-17).
17. We should be willing to suffer as a Christian. (1 Peter 4:16).
18. Let us suffer according to the will of God in service for him. (1 Peter 4:19).

NOTE—It always pays to be steadfast in everything that is right, even though we suffer for it; God will reward us for it in the end.

The Fifth Advanced Step in the Kingdom of God is: Mercy.

1. Through the mercy of the most high the King will not be moved. (Ps. 21:7).
2. Goodness and mercy will follow the servant of the Lord. (Ps. 23:6).
3. The paths of the Lord are mercy, every step of the way. (Ps. 25:10).
4. If we trust the Lord, mercy will compass us about. (Ps. 32:10).
5. Our God is a God of mercy to one and to all who serve Him. (Ps. 59:10).
6. Mercy and truth are met together, when we love God. (Ps. 85:10).
7. David said, "I will sing of mercy and judgment." (Ps. 101:1).
8. There is no end to the mercy of the Lord; it is everlasting. (Ps. 103:17).
9. We are admonished to not let mercy forsake us, but to bind it about our neck. (Prov. 3:3).
10. He that honoreth God hath mercy on the poor. (Prov. 14:31).
11. Life is promised through being merciful. (Prov. 21:21).

12. The Lord desires mercy before sacrifice. (Hosea 6:6).
13. We are required to be merciful and without it we have no promise. (Micah 6:8).
14. We are told that the merciful shall obtain mercy. (Matt. 5:7).
15. God is rich in mercy and we are asked to be merciful also. (Eph. 2:4).
16. God wants to have mercy upon all mankind. (Rom. 11:32).

NOTE—No man can ever hope to see God in peace unless he is merciful. Mercy includes kindness and tenderness toward all. Love to do good and help those who are helpless.

The Sixth Advanced Step in the Kingdom of God is: Truth.

1. We should ever seek to keep the truth on our side; the Devil told the first lie. Gen. 3:4).
2. Cain was the second one to tell a lie, and it was to God. (Gen. 4:9).
3. We sometimes will not believe the truth when it is spoken. (2 Chron. 18:15).
4. We are told that truth shall be our shield and buckler. (Ps. 91:4).
5. We should always tell the truth and never let it forsake us. (Prov. 3:3).
6. Those who speak the truth showeth forth righteousness. (Prov. 12:17).
7. The nation should keep the truth the same as an individual. (Isaiah 26:2).
8. We are commanded to speak every man the truth with his neighbor. (Zech. 8:16).
9. We are commanded to love the truth and if we love it we will keep it. (Zech. 8:19).
10. We are told that the truth shall make us free. (John 8:32).
11. Jesus Christ is the truth and is truth personified. (John 14:6).
12. We are told that the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth (John 16:13).
13. Some have changed the truth of God into a lie. (Rom. 1:25).
14. How could we be hindered that we should not obey the truth? (Gal. 5:7).
15. We are told to put away lying and speak the truth, for we are members one of another. (Eph. 4:25).
16. Our dress as a Christian should be truth and we are to be girt about with it. (Eph. 6:14).
17. Some folks are destitute of the truth entirely and do not want to know it. (1 Tim. 6:5).
18. Many people learn, but never come to the knowledge of the truth. (2 Tim. 3:7).
19. The time will come when people will turn away their ears from the truth, and many are now doing that. (2 Tim. 4:4).
20. When we have learned the truth we have to obey it or God will turn away from us forever. (Heb. 10:26).
21. People who have envy and strife in their hearts lie against the truth. (James 3:14).

22. If we say that we do not have any sin, the truth is not in us. (1 John 1:8).
23. If we say that we have not sinned, we make God a liar. (1 John 1:9).
24. The man that says he knows God, and yet will not keep His commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him. (1 John 2:4).

The Seventh Advanced Step in the Kingdom of God is: To Control the Tongue.

1. Those who flatter with their tongue are enemies of the Lord. (Ps. 5:9, 10).
2. Under the tongue of the wicked is mischief and vanity. (Ps. 10:7).
3. Those who do not backbite with the tongue shall abide in the house of the Lord. (Ps. 15:3).
4. It gives us long life to keep the tongue from evil and speaking guile. (Ps. 34:12, 13).
5. The wicked even set their tongues against the heavens and walketh through the earth. (Ps. 73:9).
6. There are seven things that the Lord hates, and a lying tongue is one of the seven named. (Prov. 6:16, 17).
7. We are told the froward tongue shall be cut out. (Prov. 10:31).
8. A lying tongue pierces like a sword into the heart. (Prov. 12:17, 18).
9. We are told that the tongue of the wise is health. (Prov. 12:18).
10. A liar will naturally give ear to a naughty tongue and glad to do it. (Prov. 17:4).
11. To get wealth by lying will never do any one any good in this world. (Prov. 21:6).
12. Those who will keep their tongues will keep their souls from trouble. (Prov. 21:23).
13. In the tongue of a good woman we find the law of kindness. (Prov. 31).
14. Israel had learned to bend their tongues like bows, they could tell anything with a good grace. (Jer. 9:3).
15. Religion is vain in any one when the tongue is not bridled. (James 1:26).
16. We are taught to control the tongue, if we would see life. (James 3:2-18).
17. Don't say a thing unless you mean it; let it be truth when said. (1 John 3:18).

The last step to be taken by every Christian is to enter the land of rest and glory. We should all seek to live so that when the final summons comes we can walk with Him in white and live in that land of glory and life forever. We must take step after step and advance toward that upper and better kingdom. We shall be heirs according to promise (Gal. 3:29). We are promised eternal life in (Titus 1:2). We at last shall be partakers of His Divine nature (2 Peter 1:4). It will be glorious to enter that land with an abundant entrance (2 Peter 1:8-11). We shall have the new name written upon us when we enter that land of life forever (Rev. 3:12). There will be joy and happiness forever with the sainted blest. (Rev. 21:4).

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